

Israel Denies Entry To U.N. Secretary

Why In News

- Israel's Foreign Minister announced on Wednesday, October 2, that U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres has been barred from entering the country. This decision stems from Guterres' failure to "unequivocally condemn" a recent missile attack launched by Iran against Israel.



What Happened

- Iran fired a massive salvo of **ballistic missiles** at Israel on Tuesday night, sending almost 10 million people into bomb shelters as projectiles and interceptors exploded in the skies above.
- **Soon after the attack, which was largely unsuccessful**, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned Tehran that it had made "a big mistake" and "will pay for it."



All You Need To Know

- Iran fired **more than 180 ballistic missiles** at Israel on Tuesday as the situation escalated between Lebanon, Hezbollah, and Israel.
- **No casualties were reported** as many missiles were intercepted mid-air. However, a few penetrated the iron dome.



- **Katz declared Guterres persona non grata** on the platform X, stating, “Today, I have banned UN Secretary-General @antonioguterres from entering Israel. Anyone who cannot unequivocally condemn Iran’s heinous attack on Israel does not deserve to step foot on Israeli soil.”



- **He criticized Guterres** for not denouncing Hamas's actions during the October 7 attacks and accused him of showing support for groups labeled as terrorists.
- **Guterres issued a brief statement** on Thursday referencing only the "latest attacks in the Middle East" and condemning the conflict "with escalation after escalation". Israel had earlier sent troops into south Lebanon.
- **"Israel will continue to defend its citizens** and uphold its national dignity, **with or without Antonio Guterres.**

